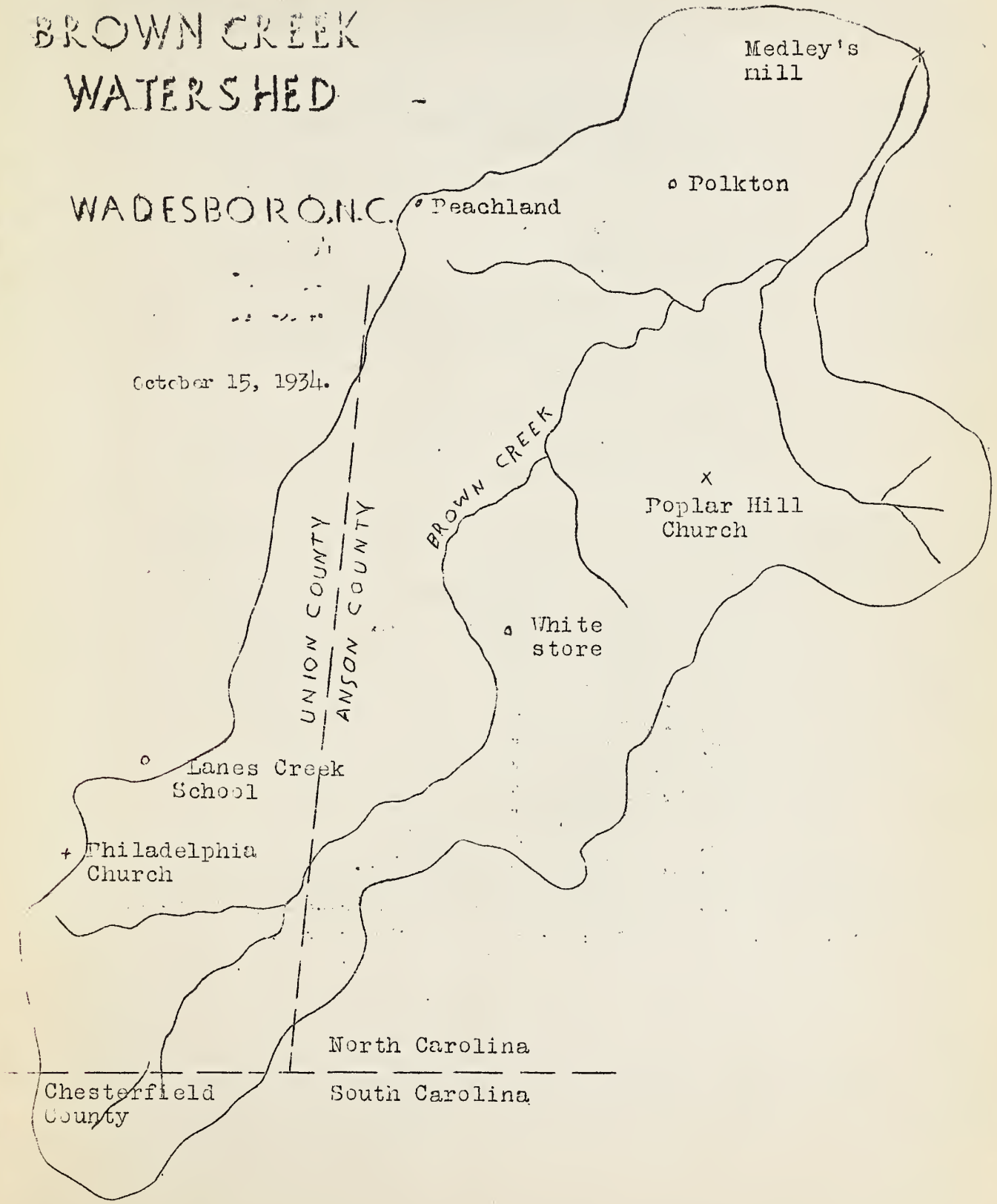
THE BROWN CREEK WATERSHED -

VOL.I NO. 4

WADESBORO,N.C.

October 15, 1934.



o Pageland, S.C.

THE BROWN CREEK WATERSHED is being put out by the Soil Erosion Staff once each month, mainly to assist in telling what we are doing and maintain a spirit of good fellowship with the citizens of the community we endeavor to serve.

EXECUTIVE

E. S. Vanatta, Asst. Regional Director.
W. B. Little, Clerk.

H. M. Stott, Asst. Erosion Specialist.

SOILS

To be selected.

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

Donald Christy, Asst. Agricultural Engineer.

AGRONOMY

A. A. Cone, Asst. Agronomist.

FORESTRY

H. P. Hagge, Forester.

Directing personnel for the ECW Camp at Polkton are as follows:

W. B. McManus, Superintendent.
R. B. Stamey, Engineer.
S. W. Myers, Foreman.
S. J. Crocker "
C. S. Faw "
C. A. Neal "
C. W. Thompson "
M. L. Ross "
A. E. Hendley, Jr"
B. W. Ingram, Mechanic.
W. L. Teal, Clerk-Stenographer.

The farmers living or owning land in the boundaries of the Brown Creek project have a wonderful opportunity in this program.

With this issue of the Brown Creek Watershed we are glad to announce the assignment of a Forester to our area, Mr. Harold P. Hagge. Many of us do not properly appreciate the part his work will mean to the program of erosion control. He will most gladly confer with any farmers regarding forestry problems and solicits your cooperation, particularly in controlling forest fires and treatment of land not suited to other crops.

A SICK WOMAN

You are badly overworked and have not conserved your strength. You are ill but you can give many thousands of years service yet to humanity if you are careful to follow my directions. Get plenty of rest, drink a lot of water and wear covering of plants always.

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

H. M. Stott

As this is written, October 10th, fifty agreements have been signed by the following farmers:

John A. Redfern (2)
Adam Carpenter
F. H. Morgan
C. H. Rivers
J. C. Caudle
N. B. Allen
Mrs. James Crowder
W. J. Phillips
B. N. Lowery (2)
H. W. Lowery
C. C. Lowery
J. M. Williams
J. F. Sweatte
W. T. Caudle
George K. Craig
J. L. Williams
Mrs. W. A. Kiker
J. W. Carpenter
E. C. Mills
N. S. Jones
E. W. Caudle
Mary Broadway
W. P. Broome
Mrs. Virgie Sikes
W. W. Crowder
E. E. Barrette
Mrs. E. C. Jones
J. E. Ashcraft (2)
Calvin Davis
J. T. Austin
Adam Gaddy
H. W. Ingram
W. D. Gulledge (2)
Ben J. Ingram
J. W. Jones
E. E. McRae (2)
S. B. Funderburk
L. G. Faulkner
A. J. Johnson Estate
Ed. M. Greene
R. L. Horne
L. Huntley
Miss Annabel Martin
C. H. Martin Estate
M. W. Caudle

These fifty agreements cover 8564 acres. Approximately 3000 acres of this is open land. Terraces are to be constructed on 2335 acres. It is planned to seed 115 acres to pasture mixture and plant 68 acres to trees. Approximately 1000 acres will be in lespedeza in 1935.

We now have the soil maps for an area extending from the White Store community to the Peachland section; and also a small area just north of Pageland. Most of our efforts in working up agreements will have to be confined for the present to these two sections where we have the necessary soil maps. We will get into other parts of the area just as fast as the soil mapping can be completed.

In addition to the fifty agreements signed we have invitations from one hundred other farmers who are ready to sign agreements as soon as we can get to them.

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SUGGESTIONS FOR TERRACING AND FALL SEEDING

A. A. Cone

It will be impossible to construct all terraces on those farms covered by cooperative agreements before Fall seeding begins. Therefore, it would probably be wise for the farmers to see the engineers and decide whether it will be possible to terrace the various fields before seeding time.

In case it is impossible for the Soil Erosion Service to reach a farmer in sufficient time for Fall seeding the farmer should make an effort to furnish the power and get the terracing done if possible. If neither of these plans prove workable we suggest the farmer go ahead and prepare the fields for sowing as usual.

After the grain comes off next Spring the terracing program may be resumed which will mean under this plan, the farmer will save all the grain. A small portion of the lespedeza will be destroyed in the terracing operations. This cannot be avoided in those instances where lespedeza is sown in grain and it is our purpose to use lespedeza on grain where possible. Lespedeza is proving the most popular close-growing, erosion-preventing crop in North Carolina erosion control areas.

On those farms where there are sufficient acres and the farmer chooses to terrace several fields during winter when the teams are idle we suggest that he have the Soil Erosion Service run terrace lines as early as practicable. Where the terrace line is established a 30 foot strip may be left for terrace construction this winter. The areas between the strips may be put to grain this Fall. The farmer may select the plan which he prefers whether he would like to have the terrace lines run and sow in strips or sow the entire field as usual and terrace after grain is removed next Spring. Regardless of the plan used the Soil Erosion Service will furnish the seed and materials pledged under cooperative agreements whether fields are terraced or not.

We feel that there is a great need for vegetative cover in this problem of soil erosion control. Next Summer it is our plan to seed newly constructed terraces to a mixture of Summer legumes and grasses. Your problem is our problem and we are anxious to cooperate with you in combating this menace called "soil erosion" which is a contributing factor to our present agricultural plight.

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AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING
Donald Christy

TERRACES NOW? YES. It is possible to have your terraces constructed within the next few days. These terraces are possible NOW to those who are willing to cooperate and do his part. But first maybe I should start at the beginning. We have only three tractors and they will be busy for at least thirty days on those farms where the farmers were the more willing to cooperate. It will be impossible for the tractors to get to many of those who have signed the cooperative agreements in time to prepare the land for fall crops. As the tractors are moved they will be moved to the farms where the best cooperation is received in the way of horse power, man power, or seed and tree plantings. An excellent way to indicate willingness to cooperate is by terracing, by the mules of that farm, that portion of the farm land that is to go into fall sown grains.

Many do not have mule power enough to do this terracing but one of our greatest assets in the time of need is our neighbors and friends, why not exchange work with the neighbor. At the present time we have a number who are, and more who are planning on exchanging work with their neighbors. The task is not hard. Mr. J. E. Ashcraft constructed some excellent terraces with only a limited amount of horse power. Mr. Walter Jones constructed some fine terraces with only three work stock. This work was completed when the weather was considerably hotter than it will be from now on till spring.

To those who wish to do some terracing on land that is ready now we will be glad to stake the terrace lines and to furnish equipment and some man power to help with the terracing.

Since the last issue of the magazine came out we were extremely fortunate to have as visitors and advisors Mr. E. R. Raney, Chief Agricultural Engineer from High Point, N. C., Mr. Bartell who is doing a wonderful piece of experiment work in erosion control at Statesville, N. C., and last but not least, Mr. C. E. Ramser, the outstanding drainage and erosion control engineer of this country. I wish to thank these gentlemen as I am sure we all have profited by their visit here.

Terrace outlets require, after their construction, care and attention the same as do the terraces. This is especially true where a sod or vegetative outlet of some kind is installed. All outlets should be inspected after the first heavy rain after their completion and any repairs made immediately and the cause of the damage corrected. A terrace is no better than its outlet. A stopped outlet means a broken terrace and an unprotected outlet a gully.

The Soil Erosion Service opens all terrace outlets before leaving the field but it will be necessary to see that they remain open. When the terraces are inspected after their "baptism of rain" it is well to look also to the outlets.

The small houses "dog houses" which are to cover the wells on which records are to be kept have arrived from High Point. In a few days several of these will be installed. In fact there are to be fifteen installed in this area.

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FORESTRY NOTES
Need For Action Here Most Urgent
Conservation Of Our Forest Resources
H. P. Hagge

Too little attention is paid to conserving our forest everywhere and particularly is this lack of preservation noticeable on upper Brown Creek. Remember too, when we conserve the forest, we conserve the soil on which it grows. We can't go wrong in thinking seriously of destructive agencies and what can be done to change wooded or partly wooded areas from a liability to a source of farm income.

Nowadays, results of forest devastation such as increased soil erosion, irregularity of stream flow, droughts and floods are recognized to an extent but far too little is being done by way of correction.

Idle land and costly timber is not a problem of the future - we have it now and it must be solved by the present generation. Solution is difficult but not impossible. Once we are fully conscious of what we have to gain or lose, the hardest is over, for then we will have cooperation and a desire to conserve.

It is essential that everyone become better acquainted with the importance and value of our forests, especially the farm woodland. The uses and commercial value of different kinds of trees, forest management, action of trees in checking soil erosion and modifying climate should be common knowledge to intelligent people.

Forestry has a definite and valuable relation to farming. The intelligent management of the timber resources on a farm is recognized in good farm management.

The articles which follow in forthcoming issues will present the subject in farm forestry and why forestry is important in connection with soil erosion with particular respect to this locality, points of local interest and season of the year. Such subjects as protection of woodlands, fire control, trees necessary for the protection against erosion, location and extent of farm woodlands, improvement, cutting, selective culturing and logging, measuring and marketing timber, measuring and estimating timber, forest reproduction, forest planting and other topics will be briefly discussed.

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The following resolution was adopted by the North Carolina State Grange at its annual convention in Lumberton, N. C., September 27, 1934:

"WHEREAS, the productive agricultural lands of our nation represent our most important and indisponsable national resource, and constitute the essential bulwark of our state and national safety and security; and

WHEREAS, the preservation of this basic asset from disastrous deterioration through the impoverishing and destroying activities of uncontrolled erosion, with a scourge of attending evils; and the maintenance and wise utilization of these lands for the sustenance, well being and importance that the problems involved unavoidably challenge state and national responsibility; and

WHEREAS, our national government, through the Soil Erosion Service, recognizing the tragic waste of erstwhile productive farm land by unrestrained runoff of rainfall, has established a number of large watershed erosion control demonstrations at representative localities over the eroding lands of the United States, two of which are located in North Carolina, on the watersheds of Deep River and Brown Creek, where measures of soil and water conservation will be combined with improved systems of farm practices under a general land-use program based on soil adaptability; and

WHEREAS, there is imperative need for this constructive land conservation work over all the eroding watersheds of North Carolina, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we, members of the North Carolina State Grange, in convention assembled at Lumberton, North Carolina, this twenty-sixty day of September 1934, do commend the government in its effort to arrest soil erosion in this and other states, and further recommend that increasing attention be given to soil conservation as a permanent national policy and that a reasonable share of money be expended to strengthen the erosion control program of the United States Department of the Interior."

The camp engineer is never fully awake in the morning until he has had his coffee. He never fully recovers from the throes of Morpheus until he has had that early morning cup of Java. This habit robbed him of his professional standing as far as at least one CCC boy was concerned the other morning at breakfast.

The young fellow was only recently enrolled and he did not have it straight in his mind as to the exact nature of the duties of the camp engineer. As he served the engineer his coffee, he asked him this question: "Sir, is there so very much advanced engineering training necessarily required in your work here?" Instead of falling back on his professional dignity and carefully answering in technical terms, the still half-asleep engineer mumbled, ... "Mostly plain horse sense."

This same question has probably bobbed up in the minds of those who have visited the project and viewed the work we are doing here, especially those on whose farms we have been working, and the answer given to the CCC boy while a bit misleading was essentially correct. The years of intensive technical training given this engineer by his university had that one idea in mind - to train him how to apply the scientific principles which were themselves founded on years of patient testing and research in a manner that would be purely and simply "horse sense."

Except for a few elementary engineering duties, the camp engineer was employed by the Soil Erosion Service to insure the land owners in this area that the work done by the CCC camp boys on their land would be done "scientifically" in the cheapest manner practical.

The work laid out by his superiors for him to supervise is a careful and complete application of methods of controlling soil erosion that all of you land owners have been using to a more limited extent all your lives. The engineer has studied and knows the causes for failure in the use of these means of control. It is his job to watch for these errors in the work done by the CCC camp boys. He has been trained to see and to correct them before the damage is done.

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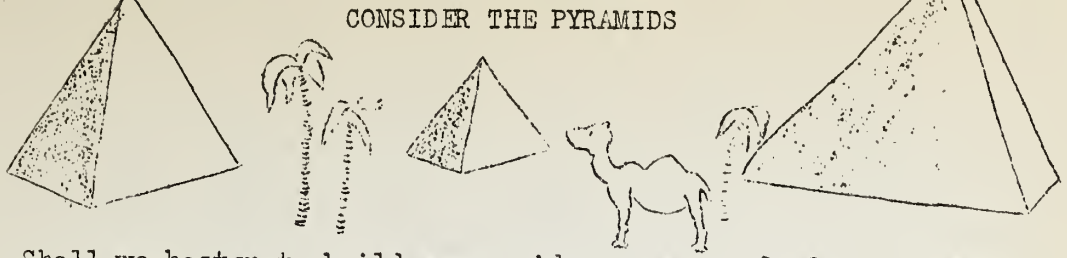
HELP PREVENT WOODS FIRES

BE SURE your match is out before throwing it away.
DON'T throw away burning tobacco and cigarettes.
CHOOSE a safe place and make your camp fire small.
PUT OUT YOUR FIRE WITH WATER AND THEN COVER IT WITH EARTH.
DO NOT BURN ALONG FENCE ROWS OR ALLOW FIRE TO TRAVEL OVER ABANDONED FIELDS.
DON'T MAKE LARGE BRUSH HEAPS. CHOOSE A STILL DAY FOR BURNING BRUSH.
PLOW FURROWS AROUND YOUR WOODLANDS.

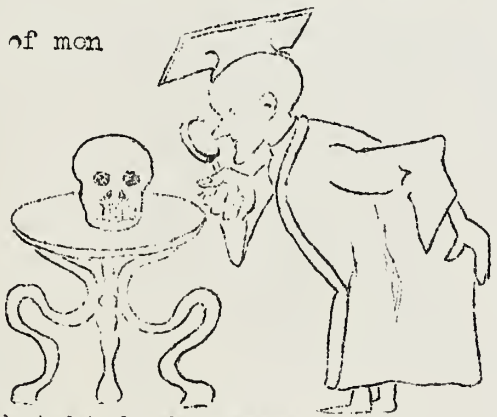
--- BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE ---

CONSIDER THE PYRAMIDS



Shall we hasten to build some evidence as proof of our present proud civilization lest in time to come it be doubted or even not thought of? The pyramids exist in Egypt but we will not leave even that proof of our greatness if this part of the world goes the way erosion has destroyed other parts in the past.

That most things occur in cycles is not disputed but what is worrying many scientists and philosophers today is the why and how of these important changes. Unless we awaken soon to the responsibility of soil conservation, we may anticipate having our skulls exhumed and studied by scholars of a future race of men



curious to know what kind of freaks lived on the earth who were so thoughtless as to permit its destruction.

That may seem a far-fetched prediction but is just what may result from the destructive force of soil wash if we do not use intelligent precautions to work with the constructive rather than with the destructive side of nature in our plans for gaining subsistence from Mother Earth.